

ABSTRACT**FUEL CELL ELECTRODE COMPRISING CARBON NANOTUBES**

5 Electrodes for polymer electrolyte membrane and direct methanol fuel cells
comprise carbon nanotubes and catalytically active metal. In one embodiment, anode
electrodes are prepared by depositing catalytic metal on carbon nanotubes, and forming
the carbon nanotubes into a membrane. Anode electrodes comprising carbon nanotubes
provide higher fuel cell performance with a much lower platinum loading than
10 conventional carbon-based electrode material having a much higher platinum loading. In
another embodiment, a catalyst ink comprising carbon nanotubes and a catalytic metal-
loaded carbon powder was used to form an electrode membrane. The catalyst ink
comprising carbon nanotubes and catalyst-loaded carbon powder can optionally comprise
an ionically conductive polymer, such as a perfluorosulfonic acid/PTFE copolymer. In
15 another embodiment, a fuel cell electrode comprising carbon nanotubes and catalytically
active metal is a free-standing electrode. In another embodiment of a membrane
electrode assembly, carbon nanotubes are sandwiched between a catalyst-loaded
electrode and a polymer electrolyte membrane.

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